

**From the Office of the Wilbraham Building Commissioner  
Lance Trevallion, Inspector  
Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant  
413-596-2800 x 204**

Many residents and property owners affected by the tragic tornadoes of June 1 have suffered losses to buildings and structures, ranging from minor damage to total loss. Building officials from across the commonwealth have been and continue to conduct 'Rapid Visual Safety Assessments' in Wilbraham. If your building has been evaluated you may find a color-coded placard posted:

**Green:** Suitable to occupy

**Yellow:** Proceed with caution (follow notes on the placard)

**Red/Orange:** Not fit for occupancy, seek professional assistance

As of Wednesday morning, the State Building Inspectors, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and I finished surveying the damaged homes in Wilbraham: 234 homes with damage were inspected. Of these, 13 dwellings were classified as unsafe for occupancy at this time.

**ELECTRICAL NEEDS**

**Permits, inspections information: 413-596-2800 X 204**

If you have electrical damage due to the tornado please keep in mind the following:

- If your power was disconnected during the storm and National Grid will not reconnect it, you will need to contact a licensed electrician to assess the damage and make repairs. National Grid will not repair damages inside your home.
- The electrician needs to submit an electrical permit application and request an inspection.
- The Wilbraham Electrical Inspector can inspect the reconnection work and work and contact National Grid for reconnection.

**FOR ASSISTANCE AND CLARIFICATION OF BUILDING STANDARDS AND  
PRACTICES IN THIS STORM EMERGENCY, THE WILBRAHAM BUILDING  
DEPARTMENT, (413) 596-2800 ext 204**

## **WORKING WITH BONAFAIDE CONTRACTORS**

### **MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

400 Worcester Road Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Tel: 508-820-2000 Fax: 508-820-2030

Website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Peter Judge, MEMA PIO

June 5, 2011

(508) 820-2002

Homeowners should contact their Municipal Building Department to ensure required permits are in place and contractors have all required credentials to avoid further hardship. Some additional strategies for homeowners are:

- Beware of any contractor who uses high-pressure sales tactics or requires full payment up front.
- Make sure everything is in writing. Make sure that the full scope of the work is explained in the contract including cleanup and disposal of waste. All verbal agreements need to be included in the written agreement. Pay close attention to the payment terms, estimated price of materials and labor and any warranties or guarantees. Before signing a contract, verify the business meets all state and local requirements including being licensed, insured and bonded. Have your attorney review the contract.
- Ensure that the contractor is appropriately licensed (Construction Supervisor) and is a Registered Home Improvement Contractor (HIC Registration). Also ask the business for references from three most recent jobs with names, telephone numbers and addresses of the owners. Confirm whether or not the contractor will be subcontracting the job or relying on his/her own employees.
- Check with your local Better Business Bureau, Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations and the Office of the Attorney general to confirm that there have been no complaints filed against the contractor.

***In the wake of a storm, fly-by-night repair businesses will solicit work, often door-to-door, in unmarked trucks. They might require advance payment and make big promises on which they won't be able to deliver.***

Seek at least three bids. Beware of low-ball estimates that may potentially balloon over time or foreshadow shoddy work to come.

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